Optional EA, Fonsi, and DR Form

THIS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT IS TIERED TO AND REFERENCES THE *"Environmental Assessment for the Atlantic Rim Coalbed Methane Project, Blue Sky Pod"*

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT **EA NUMBER:** WY-030-08-EA-079

BLM Office: Rawlins Field Office **Case Number:** WYW-166678

Proposed Action Title: Eight-inch gas pipeline to serve the Sun Dog & Brown Cow Pods

Location of Proposed Action:

T. 14 N., R. 90 W., 6th P.M., Carbon County, Wyoming
Section 6: Lots 11, 12

T. 15 N., R. 90 W., 6th P.M., Carbon County, Wyoming
Section 31: Lots 5, 6, 7

T. 14 N., R. 91 W., 6th P.M., Carbon County, Wyoming
Section 1: Lots 5, 9, 10, 11, S½SW¼, W½SE¼
Section 12: NW¼NE¼, N½NW¼

T. 15 N., R. 91 W., 6th P.M., Carbon County, Wyoming
Section 4: SW¼NE¼, W½SE¼, SE¼SE¼
Section 9: N½NE¼, SE¼NE¼, E½SE¼
Section 15: N½SW¼, SE¼
Section 16: E½NE¼, NE¼SE¼
Section 22: E½NE¼, NE¼SE¼
Section 23: SW¼NW¼, W½SW¼, S½SE¼
Section 24: SW¼SW¼
Section 25: N½NW¼, SE¼NW¼, NE¼SW¼, W½SE¼, SE¼SE¼
Section 26: NW¼NE¼, NE¼NW¼

Applicant: Anadarko E&P Company, LP (Anadarko)

Conformance with Land Use Plan

The proposed action is in conformance with the Great Divide Resource Management Plan (RMP) that was approved on November 8, 1990. The plan was reviewed to determine if the proposed action conforms with the land use plan terms and conditions as required by 43 CFR 1610.5. Development of oil and gas reserves is in conformance with the RMP decision as described in the Minerals Management Decision portion of the document (page 30) and in the Lands Management Decision portion of the document (page 15).

The development of this project would not affect the achievement of the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands (August 1997).

Remarks

The Atlantic Rim (AR) Area Natural Gas Field Development Project Environmental Impact Statement (AREIS) was written to assess the potential foreseeable and cumulative effects of drilling operations and associated activities in the Project area. The Record of Decision (ROD) for this project was approved on March 23, 2007. The proposed action is in conformance with the AREIS.

Anadarkos' right-of-way grant and terms and conditions, contains a complete description of the pipeline. The Right-of-way grant with the terms and conditions,

are considered an integral part of this environmental assessment and is incorporated by reference.

Surface disturbance associated with the proposed action is subject to, and counts towards the acreage disturbance cap described and specified in the AREIS/ROD.

Purpose and Need for Proposed Action

Domestic natural gas production is an integral part of U.S. energy development and conservation plans due to its availability and the presence of existing market delivery infrastructure. Domestic production reduces immediate dependence upon foreign sources of energy, and maintains an adequate and stable supply of fuel to maintain economic well-being, industrial production, and national security. The environmental advantages of burning natural gas are emphasized in the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990.

Description of Proposed Action

The proposed action as described in this Environmental Assessment (EA) is for the proponent to construct, own, and operate the eight-inch gas pipeline from an existing line coming from the Blue Sky Pod to the compressor station in the Brown Cow Pod. The holder proposes to construct 47,116 feet of eight-inch gas pipeline in order to transport the produced gas. The right-of-way is 50-feet wide and will disturb 54.082 acres.

An on-site inspection of the proposal was conducted. Potential impacts to resources were considered and alternate locations considered. As a result of this field inspection, the proposed project was determined to be in the most feasible location to accomplish the stated need and also reduce potential impacts to affected resources. Additional mitigation measures are included as Terms and Conditions.

The location of the proposed pipeline is approximately 38 miles south of Creston Junction, Wyoming. I-80, Carbon County road 608, and associated oil and gas lease roads would be used as the primary access.

A discussion of the actions generally associated with drilling a well, including (1) a plan of operations, (2) construction of the access road and drilling pad, and (3) pipeline installation, can be located in the following portions of the AREIS or ROD:

- Chapter 2, *Proposed Action and Alternatives (AREIS)*
- Chapter 4, *Analysis of Environmental Consequences (AREIS)*
- Appendix A, *Project Reclamation Plan (ROD)*
- Appendix C, *Operator-Committed Practices (ROD)*

Mitigation and reclamation measures are described in Chapter 4 and Appendix B of the ROD (*Project Performance-Based Monitoring and Best Management Practices*). The following narratives summarize elements specific to the proposed action for this EA.

No Action Alternative

NEPA regulations require that alternative analyses in NEPA documents "include the alternative of no action" (40 CFR 1502.14(d)). For this analysis, "no action" means that the BLM would reject the proponent's proposal and "the proposed activity would not take place."

Potential Environmental Impacts- Proposed Action Alternative

Critical Element	Affected Yes	Affected No	Critical Element	Affected Yes	Affected No
Air Quality		X	T & E Species		X

ACECs		X	Wastes, Hazardous/Solid		X
Cultural Resources		X	Water Quality (surface and ground)		X
Environmental Justice		X	Woodlands/Riparian Zones		X
Farmlands, Prime/Unique		X	Wild & Scenic Rivers		X
Floodplain		X	Wilderness		X
Nat. Amer. Rel. Concerns		X	Invasive, Nonnative Species		X

In addition to the critical elements referenced above, reviews of potential effects upon paleontological-, recreational-, soil-, vegetation-, visual-, and wildlife-resources were conducted. The affected environment and analysis of environmental impacts are discussed in the AREIS to which this EA is tiered.

Halogeton and other noxious weeds are a significant concern for this project area. COAs have been added to control the spread, establishment, and plant community changes associated with weed infestation.

The right-of-way falls within a raptor nesting area, greater sage-grouse strutting and nesting areas, and potential mountain plover habitat, therefore, construction, drilling, and other activities potentially disruptive to nesting raptors are prohibited during the period of February 1 to July 31 for the protection of raptor nesting areas, avoiding surface disturbing and disruptive activities in suitable greater sage-grouse identified nesting and early-brood rearing habitat between March 1 to July 15, and construction, drilling and other activities are prohibited during the reproductive period of April 10 to July 10 for the protection of nesting plover.

The maps and illustrations in the right-of-way graphically display the location and layout of the proposed pipeline location. The right-of-way with the terms and conditions contains a complete description of the proposal, and is considered an integral part of this Environmental Assessment by reference.

Class III cultural resources inventory were conducted for the project areas. Archaeological resources identified will be avoided or, as necessary, a monitor will review construction to ensure no cultural artifacts are disturbed. This project is located inside of the two-mile buffer of contributing segments of a historic trail ("Rawlins to Baggs Road"). The AREIS also required a "Programmatic Agreement" or "Memorandum of Agreement" between the affected parties, i.e. landowner (BLM), operator and SHPO to address the necessary mitigation to minimize impact to the trail view-shed from these disturbances. As a result, some additional restrictions or stipulations in the form of Terms and Conditions were added to the Grant as appropriate.

Site specific findings are discussed on the attached review documents. A discussion on the management of hazardous materials is provided in the sections below.

Description of Impacts

A discussion of the actions generally associated with drilling projects and associated actions (including pipeline construction may be found in the AREIS and ROD.

Hazardous Materials

Anadarko has indicated that no hazardous material would be used during construction or installation of the pipeline. The term "hazardous materials" as used here means: 1) any substance, pollutant, or contaminant (regardless of quantity) listed as hazardous under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq., and the regulations issued under CERCLA, 2) any hazardous waste as defined in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976, as amended, and 3) any nuclear or

nuclear byproduct as defined by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.

It is possible that wastes created or transported during implementation of the proposed action (i.e., waste motor oils, hydraulic oil, etc.) could be accidentally released to the environment. The operator will be required to comply with the Hazardous Materials Management Plan provided in Appendix C of the AREIS. Numerous State and Federal rules and regulations also apply that govern the handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous substances.

Anadarko or any contracted company working for Anadarko will have Material Data Safety Sheets available for all chemicals, compounds, or substances which are used during the course of construction, drilling, completion, and production operations for this project. Additionally, all chemicals will be handled in an appropriate manner to minimize the potential for leaks or spills to the environment.

Impacts to soils, surface and groundwater resources, wildlife, vegetation, and human health could result from the accidental exposure of hazardous materials. However, since the project operations will strictly comply with all applicable federal and state laws concerning hazardous materials, the Hazardous Materials Management Plan for this project, and the operator's Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan, no significant impacts are anticipated.

Reclamation

Reclamation typically will commence as soon after pipeline installation as reasonable, or as otherwise applicable or specified in the AREIS/ROD. Appendix A of the ROD contains the reclamation success criteria by which the reclamation status will be judged.

Description of Mitigation Measures

Mitigation of potential effects is part of the proposed action, and specific mitigation details can be found in the Plan of Development, including the Conditions of Approval. Residual impacts resulting from the proposed action (by association) would include permanent loss of oil and/or gas reserves should the wells become productive. The pipelines would be evacuated and left buried indefinitely upon completion of the project, but reclamation of the surface would begin as soon as reasonable after construction.

Potential Environmental Impacts- No Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, the proposed action would not be authorized. The utility lines would not be installed, and production from the proponent's lease would be dramatically decreased or non existent. Existing development would continue to occupy the project area, along with impacts associated with the existing development.

Residual Impacts/Cumulative Impacts:

The potential residual and cumulative impacts are discussed in the AREIS, Chapter 5, *Cumulative Impacts Analysis*. The proposed action entails the construction of approximately 8081 linear feet of pipelines and electric lines in the Sun Dog Unit.

Standard mitigation guidelines are addressed in the ROD's Appendix A, *Project Reclamation Plan*. Additional mitigation measures are also provided in Appendix B, *Performance-Based Monitoring and Best Management Practices,* and Appendix C, *Operator-Committed Practices*. All needed mitigation is part of the proposed action.

Since no additional mitigation measures are proposed, no residual impacts other than those discussed above are anticipated.

Persons/Agencies Consulted

Frank Blomquist	Wildlife Biologist	BLM

Nina Trapp Archaeologist BLM
Cathy Flansburg Anadarko E&P Company

Preparer: Janelle Wrigley Janelle Wrigley 12/27/07
Realty Specialist Date

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT/DECISION RECORD

I have reviewed this environmental assessment including the explanation and resolution of any potentially significant environment impacts. I have determined that the proposed action with the mitigation measures described below will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an EIS is not required. I have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the Great Divide Resource Management Plan approved on November 8, 1990. It is my decision to implement the project with the mitigation measures identified below.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the EA, I have determined that the impacts are not expected to be significant, and that an EIS is not required.

Rationale for Decision

Compared to the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action Alternative best meets the Purpose & Need and guiding laws, regulations, and directives, including the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA, 43 USC 35). The proposed action is in conformance with the Great Divide Resource Management Plan (RMP) and the Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Field Development Project EIS.

Mitigation Measures/Remarks:

This project, when implemented with the mitigative measures, seasonal restrictions, and conditions of approval, as described, will result in minimal short-term impacts, and no long-term impacts to the environment. All required mitigation is part of the proposed action and can be located in the APD and Conditions of Approval.

Monitoring and Compliance

Designated BLM personnel will monitor operations under authorizations for the proposed action as needed to ensure compliance with the Sundry Notice, Plan Elements, and Conditions of Approval.

Authorized Official: _____ Date: 12/28/07
Rawlins Field Manager